

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the response filed on November 12, 2007. Currently claims
5 1-16, 18, 19, 26, and 27 remain in the examination.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or
additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR
10 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the
payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was granted during a telephone interview
with Mr. Thomas Spinelli on February 6, 2008 (see attached Interview Summary).

IN THE CLAIMS

13. (Currently Amended). The inventory management apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
the automated assembly machine comprises a surface mount technology pick and place machine.
20-25. (Canceled).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-16, 18, 19, 26, and 27 are allowed.

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4. The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are directed at an apparatus and the method for automated assembly machine processing a reel tape.

Along the tape that is being fed into the apparatus, at least one indication is positioned at a location along the tape at which a predetermined portion of the component reel has been

5 depleted, the predetermined portion indicating a percentage us of the component reel. The indication read by the reader is transmitted. As indicted, claims 1-16, 18, and 19 were previously allowed. Applicant's argument with respect to claims 26 and 27 is persuasive.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue
10 fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

15 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Ahshik Kim* whose telephone number is (571)272-2393. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 6:00AM to 3:00PM Monday thru Friday.

20 If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571)272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (571)273-8300.

25 Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [ahshik.kim@uspto.gov].

30 *All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly*

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set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent
5 Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications
may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished
application is available for Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system,
see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions or access to the Private PAIR
system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Ahshik Kim/

Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876
February 8, 2008